

REMARKS

Claims 7 and 12-18, 20 and 21 are pending in the application. Claims 12, 16-18 and 21 are allowed. Claims 1, 4-6, 14, 15, 19 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Genz, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,312,288 [hereinafter "Genz"]).

An exemplary aspect of the present terminals is that the wire press-contact portion, e.g., 30, is spaced a predetermined distance H from a center line (axis) CL1 of the terminal connecting portion, e.g., 20 (as noted in the paragraph bridging pages 16 and 17 of the present specification). Accordingly, the press-contacting blade is likewise elevated and is disposed above the terminal connecting portion e.g., 20. As shown in Figures 3 and 4 of Genz, the groove 64 aligned with the applied terminal connecting portion 58 such that it is not elevated above the terminal connection portion.

Claim 6 defines the press-contacting blade as being elevated above the terminal connecting portion. For example, and not by limitation, the terminal fitting direction may be represented by the directional arrow "A" shown in present Figure 1. The interconnecting portion has a horizontal portion (e.g., 41) and a vertical portion (e.g., 42). The vertical portion extends past the terminal connecting portion in a direction (e.g., H) perpendicular to the terminal fitting direction. Thus, the blade is spaced away from the terminal connecting portion by the horizontal portion and the blade is elevated above the terminal connecting portion in the direction perpendicular to the terminal fitting direction. Moreover, claim 6 recites that the terminal connecting portions of the terminals are received in the connector housing in parallel so that the press-contacting blades are arranged in a *staggered* manner. At least these features are not disclosed by Genz, such that the rejection of claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) should be withdrawn. The rejection of claims 14, 15 and 20 should likewise be withdrawn, at least due to their respective dependencies on claim 6.

Claims 2 and 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Genz in view JP 2-115257U (“‘257”). The rejection of claims 2 and 3 is deemed moot.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

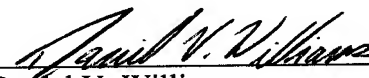
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